

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1801
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2017
Medicinal Plants
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Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that remote villages of Kerala are in the know how of rare medicinal plants/herbs which they have been using for centuries successfully in the treatment of cancer, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct proper and thorough research work in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the schemes implemented in the said district to increase the production of these plants; and

(f) the extent upto which the production of medicinal/herbal plants has been increased after implementation of said schemes till date?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) to (c): Yes, as per information provided by State Government, some indigenous people or traditional village healers including tribal communities of Kerala claim that there are herbs or medicinal plants which they had been using for centuries for the treatment of various diseases including cancer. For example the plant species viz. *Simarouba glauca* and *Annona muricata* are very popular among the traditional healers. However, there is no information available on scientific evidence and efficacy of these species. A research council of Ministry of AYUSH viz. Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) has conducted an ethnobotanical survey in three Forest Divisions of Kerala State and recorded folk claims of one plant species (*Decalepis hamiltonii*) as anti-cancerous.

As per information provided by State Government various institutions in Kerala such as Amla Cancer Research Centre (ACRC), Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) etc. are carrying out research work for phytochemical screening of plants for identifying potential compounds which are effective against cancer.

(d) to (f): Yes, there are possibilities of production of medicinal / herbal plants in Buldana district of Maharashtra.

To increase the production of medicinal plants in the country including Buldhana district of Maharashtra, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH under its Central Sector Scheme on "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" is supporting resource augmentation of these plants in forest areas and in this regard provides project based financial assistance to State Forest Departments / agencies. In Buldhana district, in year 2014-15, the NMPB under above scheme has supported a project entitled "Resource augmentation of medicinal plants in Buldana Forest Division, Maharashtra" with objectives of conservation and resource augmentation of medicinal trees, shrubs, herbs species (i.e. *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Semecarpus marsupium*, *Sterculia urens*, *Semecarpus anacardium*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Celastrus paniculata*, *Helicteres isora* etc.) in about 200 hectare forest area.

In addition to above, to increase the production of medicinal plants, the NMPB, Ministry of AYUSH under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) is also promoting large scale cultivation of medicinal plants on farmer's land and in this regard provides financial assistance as subsidy to farmer's for cultivation of these plants throughout the country including State of Maharashtra. In Buldana district of Maharashtra, the NMPB has provided financial assistance for cultivation of medicinal plants species like *Piper longum* and *Chlogophytum borivilianum* etc.

As per the Study-cum-Survey conducted by NMPB in 2014-15 to assess Demand and Supply of Medicinal Plants, the estimated annual volume of medicinal plants in the country has grown from 3,17,500 MT in 2004-05 to 5,12,000MT in 2014-15 i.e. registering a growth of more than 60% in the last one decade.

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